

a small number of harbor seals, would have a negligible impact on the harbor seal stock, and would not have an adverse impact on the availability of this stock for subsistence uses.

Dated: December 23, 1998.

Michael Payne,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122398D]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the New England Fishery Management Council will hold joint public meetings.

DATES: On Tuesday, January 19, 1999, the Mid-Atlantic Council and New England Council Scientific & Statistical Committees will meet from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. On Wednesday, January 20, 1999, the Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee will meet from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 45 Industrial Highway, Essington, PA; telephone: 610-521-2400.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 19.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of these meetings is to review the overfishing definition for spiny dogfish and consider alternatives for spawning stock biomass rebuilding targets.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Committees for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at the Mid-Atlantic Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 23, 1998.

Gary C. Matlock,

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122398C]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling public meetings of its Herring and Groundfish Oversight Committees and Groundfish Advisory Panel in January, 1999 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from these groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meetings will be held on January 21, January 25 and 26, 1999, respectively. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held in Peabody, MA and Portsmouth, NH. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; (781) 231-0422. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1097; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Agendas

Thursday, January 21, 1999, 10 a.m.—Herring Oversight Committee Meeting

Location: Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street (Route 1), Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 535-4600.

Consideration of Atlantic herring management issues including "grandfathering" provisions for large fishing vessels (over 165 feet), and, for the Gulf of Maine, a Total Allowable Catch "set-aside" for small otter trawl vessels and spawning closure boundaries.

Tuesday, January 25, 1999, 9:30 a.m.—Groundfish Advisory Panel Meeting

Location: Holiday Inn, 300 Woodbury Avenue, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 431-8000.

Review of the draft final document for the annual plan adjustment (Framework Adjustment 27) to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and development of advice to the Groundfish Committee on a preferred alternative for consideration by the Council. The panel also will discuss and advise the Groundfish Committee on priorities for 1999. Topics will include, but may not be limited to action to address rebuilding programs as needed under the new overfishing definitions for all multispecies stocks, implementation of a two-tiered permit system to address latent fishing effort, industry proposals for scientific research and conservation engineering programs, and modification of the annual plan adjustment schedule and a possible change to the fishing year.

Tuesday, January 26, 1999, 9:30 a.m.—Groundfish Oversight Committee Meeting

Location: Holiday Inn, 300 Woodbury Avenue, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 431-8000.

Review of the draft final document for the 1999 annual plan adjustment (Framework Adjustment 27) to the Northeast Multispecies FMP and development of a preferred alternative for consideration by the Council. The Groundfish Committee also will discuss and recommend priorities for 1999. Issues or topics will include, but may not be limited to action to address rebuilding programs as needed under new overfishing definitions for all multispecies stocks, implementation of a two-tiered permit system to address latent fishing effort, industry proposals for scientific research and conservation engineering programs, and modification of the annual adjustment schedule and possible change to the fishing year.